



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Opposing Senate Bill 814 An Act Promoting Accountable Care Collaboratives

Public Health Committee – March 11, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 250 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 814, AA Promoting Accountable Care Collaboratives.

As orthopaedic surgeons, we do not support SB 814 in its current form as it does not provide for or address the need for specialty care. Through Medicare, ACOs were created and have organized their quality efforts around primary care physicians in an effort to seek savings, quality and accountability. The problem with Medicare ACOs are the rules which don't apply to specialists who are allowed to have relationships with multiple ACOs.

This bill does not address the need for specialty physicians to be fully integrated in the ACO system which could be done through supervised state collective bargaining for all private physicians, not just primary care, and would allow more private medical practices to survive in Connecticut and provide access to care to the hundreds of thousands of citizens newly enrolled in health insurance coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act.

The only antitrust safety zones begrudgingly granted by the FTC/DOJ for ACOs are for those patients insured by Medicare. Unless SB 814 is willing to invoke the State Action Doctrine and have the state supervise all negotiations among insurers and physicians outside of Medicare ACOs, doctors will be at risk for prosecution by the FTC/DOJ. Historically the policy of these agencies is to only prosecute physicians in such contract struggles and never insurers.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss enhancements to this bill to include specialty care and have Connecticut be a leader in developing and creating an Advanced ACO model to address the increasing need for access of the newly insured to quality physicians of all specialties.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT thank you for your serious consideration and we appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

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